



St. Mary's Newsletter

Term One - 2021



Dear Parents

Thank you all for your huge generosity to our Sponsored Spooky Walk which raised an amazing £1500 and to the FOSM - The Friends of St Mary's who arranged the Halloween Raffle. We were delighted of the recent opportunity to speak with you and discuss your child's progress.

Important Dates:

Primary 4 - First Confession – Wednesday 24th November at 6pm in St Mary's Church,

Primary 7 - Confirmation – Tuesday 5th April at 7pm in St Mary's Church

Primary 4 - First Communion – Saturday 28th May at 11:00am in St Mary's Church.

Healthy Break – Nut Free School

The school promotes healthy break and lunches. The children are encouraged to drink water during the day. Please send water only in the children's water bottles.

We currently have members of our school community who have an allergy to peanuts. Please do not send any food products that contain peanuts with the children to school. Thank you for your consideration.



Information for Parents

On 9th November 2021, Education Minister Michelle McIlveen launched a new app for schools to safeguard children and young people when online. We would encourage all families to download the New Safer School App which is provided to our school by the Department of Education and INEQE Safeguarding Group. The app continues to offer support and reassurance in keeping children safer when online. The app can be downloaded on either the App Store or Google Play.

Landing Page <https://ineqe.com/safer-schools-ni/>

Our Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher: Mr I Lavery

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs B Chambers

Principal: Mrs McAlinden

Designated Governor: Mrs K Doherty

RISE NI (Regional Integrated Support for Education in N.I.) is a service jointly funded by Health and Education, Information for Parents can be viewed on <https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/parents>



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ETI -In June last year, our primary 6 children participated in a survey for the Department of Education Inspectors. A summary of the views of all the pupils who responded has been published and the Inspectorate would like to thank all those who participated in the questionnaire.

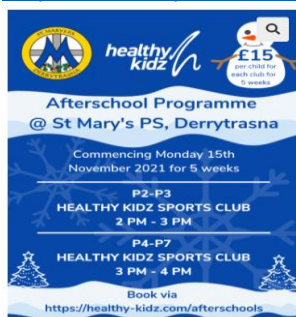
P.E

We will be continuing with our P.E programs. Primary 6/7 will participate in GAA coaching with Mr Liam McCorry on Mondays. Healthy Kidz will continue for all children on Thursdays. Please ensure you wear the St Mary's P.E uniform only.

Healthy Kidz

The second block of Healthy Kidz Afterschool will begin on Monday 15th November for 5 weeks

<https://healthy-kidz.com/product/healthy-kidz-afterschools-at-st-marys-ps-derrytrasna-2/>



Irish

Our Primary 6/7 class are linking with St Ronan's College for an introduction to Irish. These sessions have begun and are being delivered through Zoom. We thank Mrs Tennyson from St Ronan's College for providing the opportunity to the children.

Music

The children from Primary 5, 6 and 7 have begun their music lessons with the School of Music. Every child is learning to play a string instrument- viola or violin. Thanks to our PTA and the award from the Arts Council NI last year, our school has their own stock of instruments for the children.

Music –I Pad

Mr Murphy from the EA School of Music led the P6/7 class in a very successful workshop with IPads. The children were able to combine music and technology around the theme of World War 2 and create their own podcasts.

Library Books

Our school library van will be returning to school in the forthcoming weeks. Any books that belong to the library can be returned to school.

Please return any textbooks or reading books that you still have at home from previous years as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.